Sale of C-130J Super Hercules Military Transport Aircraft to India

2060. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US is aggressively hawking the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the American delegations have held several meetings with the Indian Air Force officials in the recent past to push for the multi-million dollar contract for the C-130J; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Available information do not suggest about USA aggressively hawking the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft to India.

(b) Generalised presentations were made by a manufacturer of USA to the Air headquarters regarding the features of the aircraft.

(c) There is no proposal currently under consideration of the Government for the procurement of C-130J aircraft.

Withdrawal of troops from Siachen

†2061. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to withdraw the troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir to certain extent will be enforced in Siachen Glacier also, if so, the extent of troops to be withdrawn from Siachen;

(b) whether Pakistan Government has sent a proposal for withdrawal of troops from Siachen to the Government of India, if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto; and

(c) whether Government of India are of the view that India's security interests would be affected by withdrawal of troops from Siachen, if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no move to withdraw troops from the Siachen Glacier.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.